

Slaughter Announces \$ 5,957,891 in Federal Funding for Buffalo/Niagara Emergency Response System

Area Receives Funding via the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

Buffalo, NY - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chair of the House Rules Committee, today announced that the Buffalo-Niagara region was awarded Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency funding for the region's Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). The area will also receive funding via the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), a federally funded program designed to assist jurisdictions considered to be at high risk for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The Buffalo region receives funding awards each year because it has been identified as a high-risk area.

“This critical funding will give our first responders the resources they need to communicate in the event of an emergency,” said Rep. Slaughter. “This funding will assist our police and emergency service departments in their efforts to protect our citizens.”

It is expected that the region will apply the UASI funding to support local efforts to upgrade interoperable communications systems, which will help provide first responders with real-time radio communications across disciplines and jurisdictions. The goal of this program is to enable local public safety agencies to communicate as they prevent or respond to a terrorist attack. The funding will also be used for critical infrastructure, such as securing important buildings and creating emergency response plans.

The Buffalo Fire Department will carry out the MMRS grants, in collaboration with Erie County. This money will be used to prepare for health related emergencies.

The breakdown of the funding for Buffalo is as follows:

- UASI (\$5,544,750)
- MMRS (\$321,221)
- UASI NSGP (\$91,920)

BACKGROUND

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI)

UASI is a federally funded program designed to assist jurisdictions considered to be at high risk for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The MMRS Program was created in 1996, in response to the Tokyo mass transit Sarin gas attack by Aum Shinrikyo and the domestic terrorist bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, both having occurred in 1995.

The MMRS program assists 124 highly populated jurisdictions to develop plans, conduct training and exercises, and acquire pharmaceuticals and personal protective equipment, to

achieve the enhanced capability necessary to respond to a mass casualty event caused by a WMD terrorist act. This assistance supports the jurisdictions' activities to increase their response capabilities during the first hours crucial to lifesaving and population protection, with their own resources, until significant external assistance can arrive.

Gaining these capabilities also increases the preparedness of the jurisdictions for a mass casualty event caused by an incident involving hazardous materials, an epidemic disease outbreak, or a natural disaster. MMRS fosters an integrated, coordinated approach to medical response planning and operations, as well as medical incident management at the local level.

Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Nonprofit Security Grant Program

The UASI NSGP allocates grants to eligible 501(c)(3) organizations at high risk of terrorist attack in high-risk Urban Areas. Grants are allocated through eligible State Administering Agencies according to criteria that include: (1) prior threats or attacks by a terrorist organization; (2) symbolic value of a site that renders it a possible terrorist target; (3) the organization's role in responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks; and (4) the organization's threat, vulnerability and/or consequence as determined by a previously conducted risk assessment.

###